AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraphs beginning on line 14 of page 6 and ending on line 23 of page 6 as follows:

As shown in Figure **[[4]]**3, an embodiment of the present invention includes a Method **[[400]]**300for the computing the expected erosion costs per component (the expected financial cost of having leftover inventory for a subset of components). Method **[[400]]**300 consists of the following steps:

In step **[[402]]**302 a user inputs the erosion costs per surplus component.

In step **[[404]]**304 the expected surplus is evaluated using Method 200. This step may be done in parallel with step **[[402]]**302.

In step **[[406]]**306 the expected surplus is multiplied by the per-unit erosion costs to obtain the expected erosion cost for each component of interest.

In step **[[408]]**308 the expected erosion cost for each component of interest is reported to the user.

Please amend the paragraphs beginning on line 2 of page 7 and ending on line 10 of page 7 as follows:

As shown in Figure **[[5]]**4, an embodiment of the present invention includes a Method **[[500]]**400 for computing the total expected erosion cost (i.e., estimating the total erosion cost a company should expect given a certain plan for component availability). Method **[[500]]**400consists of the following steps:

In step **[[502]]**402 the component-by-component expected erosion costs are evaluated for all components of the planning portfolio. This step may be done in parallel.

In step **[[504]]**404 the numbers obtained in step **[[502]]**402 are summed.

In step **[[506]]**406 the single expected erosion cost number is reported back to the user, or stored for further processing by the system.